

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant; and

an inorganic particulate material disposed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein the toner particles have a surface roughness of between 1 and 30 nm, a standard deviation of the surface roughness of between 10 and 90 nm and include 1 to 20 convexities per 1 μm having a height not less than 10 nm, and include a convexity having a vertical interval not less than 10 nm between a bottom of a concavity and a top of the convexity between 1 and 20 pieces/ μm in number,

wherein the toner has an average circularity of between 0.93 and 1.00, and

wherein the toner has a shape factor of between 100 and 140 and a ratio of the surface roughness to the shape factor of between 0.007 and 0.30.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The toner according to claim 1, wherein an amount not greater than 30% of the toner particles have a circularity less than 0.93.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner has a volume-average particle diameter of between 2.0 and 6.0 μm and a ratio of the volume-average particle diameter to a number-average particle diameter of between 1.00 and 1.40.

Claim 5 (Original): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the toner has a ratio of a surface roughness to the volume-average particle diameter of between 0.2 and 6.0.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner is granulated in a liquid medium.

Claim 8 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, further comprising:
a resin, wherein the resin is different from the binder resin and disposed on the surface of the toner particles.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner particles comprise a release agent.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a toner, comprising:
dissolving or dispersing a polyester prepolymer having a functional group including a nitrogen atom, a polyester resin, a colorant and a release agent in an organic solvent to prepare a toner constituent liquid; and

dispersing the toner constituent liquid in an aqueous medium including at least one of a crosslinking agent and an elongation agent to perform at least one of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction to cross-link or elongate the polyester prepolymer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 7, wherein the liquid medium comprises a resin ~~an organic fine~~ particulate material having a volume-average

particle diameter of between 20 and 150 nm, and wherein the resin ~~organic fine~~ particulate material is disposed on a surface of the toner.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 11, wherein the resin ~~organic fine~~ particulate material comprises a spherical shape.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 11, wherein the resin ~~organic fine~~ particulate material comprises one of a spindle, disk, spindle disk and amorphous flat plate shape.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner according to claim 7, wherein the toner is disposed between 10 min and 23 hrs at a temperature of between 25 and 50 °C after being granulated in the liquid medium.

Claim 15 (Original): A two-component developer comprising:
the toner according to Claim 1; and
a magnetic carrier.

Claim 16 (Original): A one-component developer comprising:
the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image developer comprising:
an image developing unit containing the two-component developer according to Claim 15 and configured to develop an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor with

~~[[a]] the developer to form a toner image, wherein the developer comprises the two-component developer according to Claim 15.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image bearer configured to bear a latent image;
a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the latent image bearer;
an irradiator configured to irradiate the surface of the latent image bearer based on image data to form an electrostatic latent image on the surface thereof;
the image developer according to claim 17, ~~the image developer configured to feed a toner to the electrostatic latent image to form a visual toner image;~~
a transferer configured to transfer the visual toner image to a transfer body; and
a fixer configured to fix the visual toner image on the transfer body.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image developer comprising:
an image developing unit containing the one-component developer according to Claim 16 and configured to develop an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor with
~~[[a]] the developer to form a toner image, wherein the developer comprises the one-component developer according to Claim 16.~~

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image bearer configured to bear a latent image;
a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the latent image bearer;
an irradiator configured to irradiate the surface of the latent image bearer based on image data to form an electrostatic latent image on the surface thereof;

the image developer according to claim 19, ~~the image developer configured to feed a toner to the electrostatic latent image to form a visual toner image;~~

a transferer configured to transfer the visual toner image to a transfer body; and

a fixer configured to fix the visual toner image on the transfer body.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by inserting subject matter described in original Claims 14 and 18.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 6 therein; Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 11-13 have been amended by changing back to --resin particulate material--, as recited in original Claims 11-13. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended by requiring the presence of the developers of Claims 15 and 16, respectively. Claims 18 and 20 have been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claims 17 and 19, respectively.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-20 are now pending in the application. Of these claims, Claim 10 stands withdrawn from consideration.